



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Preschool and Kindergarten Early Literacy Implementation Guidance Clarification

As of November 12, 2014

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide Early Literacy Implementation clarification for Iowa's public schools specific to the definition, condition for enrollment, required standards and assessments and funding for preschool and kindergarten programs.

This guidance is specific to Iowa Department of Education funded programs. For preschool and kindergarten programs, the department provides funds through Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs, state aid through certified enrollment for kindergarten programs, and special education weighting.

Definitions

Prekindergarten/Preschool—includes programming for children who are not kindergarten age eligible. These children may or may not receive state funding based on the program and the services they receive. This includes Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs and Early Childhood Special Education instructional services as specified on the Individualized Education Program (IEP). [281-12.5(1)]

Kindergarten—includes programming for children who are kindergarten age eligible. These children receive K-12 student aid. [281-12.5(2); 282.3]

TABLE 1. PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

Program	Age	Conditions for Enrollment	Standards	Assessment	State Funding		
					SWVPP	Special Education	Certified Enrollment
Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children [SWVPP]	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child is a resident of Iowa Open Enrollment does not apply 	Iowa Early Learning Standards (IELS)	GOLD online assessment [required]	Yes	No	.5
	4-IEP support services only				Yes	No	.5
	4 – IEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child is a resident of Iowa Open Enrollment applies 		IGDIs online assessment for Universal Screening [optional]	No	Yes	1.0 + special education through weighting
Kindergarten [Age on or before 9/15]	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Enrollment applies Grade Level is District Determined 	Iowa Core	District Determined Assessments [required]	No	No	1.0
	5 – IEP support services only				No	No	1.0
	5 – IEP			DE approved universal screening assessment. The DE supports administration of FAST. FAST may also be used as the district's KLA measure. [required]	No	Yes	1.0 + special education through weighting

The Department recognizes that one classroom may serve SWVPP and kindergarten-age eligible children as part of a multi-grade program. The table above illustrates the conditions regarding standards and assessment that must be met for each age group.

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program dollars may not be used to support 5 year old attendance in SWVPP. The district may select to fund kindergarten-age eligible children as part of a multi-grade program [space permitting after all 4-year old enrollment has been accounted for], in the following ways:

- Certified enrollment or special education funds
- Parent paid tuition
- Funding provided by other community resources

Once a child has completed any programming prior to kindergarten [e.g., transitional, alternative, beginning] and is age eligible for first grade, there are two options:

- **The child attends kindergarten.** If 1.0 funding was used to support a child to attend previous programming such as transitional, alternative or beginning programs, then the child would be considered as being retained in kindergarten.
- **The child attends first grade.** If 1.0 funding was used to support a child to attend previous programming such as transitional, alternative or beginning programs, then the child would be considered as being appropriately promoted to first grade.